



PRISM

A FREE quarterly publication for KPL patrons and community members.

MAR, APR, & MAY 2021

PARTY IN THE PARK

**2021 Virtual
Party in the Park**
Wednesday, May 26
All Day | Online

In light of the ongoing pandemic, KPL has decided to host our 24th Annual *Party in the Park* online. Viewers can enjoy costumed characters, KPL staff and community members as they read beloved children's stories. *Party in the Park* bags with a free book and snacks will be available for pick up prior to the event. *Party in the Park* is best suited for ages Birth-5.

Details will be posted on kpl.gov/pip in the weeks leading up to the party.



Jacqueline Woodson

2021
**Reading
Together**

Details on Page 2 ...

For more information on this speaker
please visit prhspeakers.com.

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Current KPL Locations and Hours

Curbside KPL Service will be available at the following locations:

Central: Monday–Friday | 1–6 pm & Saturday | 10 am–2 pm

Oshtemo Branch: Monday–Friday, 1–6 pm & Saturday | 10 am–2 pm

Eastwood Branch: Monday–Friday, 1–6 pm & Saturday | 10 am–2 pm

Alma Powell Branch & Washington Square Branch are closed until further notice.

All locations are closed on Sundays.

Library Hours are subject to change. Please visit kpl.gov or call (269) 553-7800 for current information about library service locations and hours.

KPL Events

In order to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, KPL will not be offering in-person programming until further notice. We are, however, always adding new online events for all ages. Some highlights are featured on the following pages. Visit kpl.gov to view the complete and up-to-date list of programs scheduled this winter.

Every year, Kalamazoo residents gather to read and discuss the themes of one book. This year, *Reading Together* features several books by award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson, who writes for children, teens, and adults. Due to the pandemic, we will gather online for our first virtual *Reading Together* author events.

Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, March 10** and join Woodson for two presentations: ***Behind the Books* at 3 pm** and ***The Power of Story* at 7 pm**. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link to attend.

While we invite the community to explore Woodson's entire body of work, we have highlighted six titles to appeal to readers of all ages. We encourage you to read and talk about these books with your family, friends, co-workers, or make new friends and form a book group! KPL has multiple copies of the following titles for check out:




For more information about this year's *Reading Together* author, events and to register for the March 10 presentations below, visit readingtogether.us. ▲



For more information on this speaker please visit prhspeakers.com

Jacqueline Woodson – *Behind the Books*

Wednesday, March 10 | 3–4 pm | Zoom 

Jacqueline Woodson discusses her lifelong journey as a writer with humor and poise, revealing her own writing process and where she finds inspiration. As she reads passages from her diverse body of work, this rousing, interactive talk motivates Woodson's audiences—from students to educators to book lovers—to read, write, revise, and read some more.

Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.

Jacqueline Woodson – *The Power of Story*

Wednesday, March 10 | 7–8 pm | Zoom 

Woodson guides the audience through the vivid poems from her book *Brown Girl Dreaming*, sharing what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow, her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement, and the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child.

Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.

More information can be found at readingtogether.us

Thank You to Our Ready to Read Donors!



By Jill Lansky

Ready to Read is an early literacy outreach program led by Kalamazoo Public Library that encourages parents and caregivers to share books with children from birth to five years of age. This program reaches beyond the library district to support early literacy efforts throughout Kalamazoo County. Research shows that children who start kindergarten familiar with books are more likely to become good readers and achieve academic success. *Ready to Read* partners with community agencies that serve early learners to distribute books, such as child care centers, pediatricians, food banks, preschools, libraries, home visitation programs, special events, hospitals, and more.

Each fall, *Ready to Read* reaches out to community members in Kalamazoo County to sponsor the *Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee*. This annual fundraiser provides *Ready to Read* the opportunity to raise critical funds to support the purchase of gift books for children ages 0–5 in our community. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to host our in-person event in 2020. Wanting to continue this valuable service, we reached out to past donors through a letter-writing campaign. We are so pleased to thank the following donors for their contributions!

Gold Sponsor: Friends of Kalamazoo Public Library

Bronze Sponsors: Gretchen LaReau Memorial Fund;
Kiwanis Club of Kalamazoo;
The Sunrise Rotary

Book Sponsors: The Breakfast Optimist Club
of Kalamazoo; Marge Kars; Psi Iota Xi

Letter Sponsors: Mary & Thomas Platte; Kevin King;
David Campbell; Ryan Wieber; Jill Lansky;
Johnson Controls; Bill Dimond; Marge Kars;
Cheryl Tenbrink; Lisa Godfrey; Miller-Davis

Care Sponsors: Amy Sue Manley; Paula Rock; Katie Clark;
Zwart Family Trust; Shawn Fields;
Ann Rohrbaugh; Melissa Ewing

Ready to Read was able to provide **16,450 books** during the 2020/21 fiscal year. We are looking forward to growing that number in 2021/22. If you would like to help us, there is still time to support *Ready to Read*! 100% of dollars raised will go directly to purchase books for children in Kalamazoo County. To learn more or to make a contribution, please visit: kpl.gov/r2r.

Thank you for supporting early childhood literacy! ▲



Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL) is proud to announce a new scholarship for people of color interested in obtaining their master's degree in library science, the *Amanda Green Scholarship*.

According to recent studies conducted by the Department for Professional Employees, in 2019, just 5.3% of librarians identified as Black or African American, 7.1 percent as Hispanic or Latino, and 3.5 percent as Asian-American or Pacific Islander. These numbers reveal an overall lack of diversity in librarianship.

In response, KPL created the *Amanda Green Scholarship*, named after a former library assistant in Teen Services at KPL, to promote the library profession to people of color. By providing monetary assistance to individuals seeking a master's degree from an accredited library science program, the library hopes to promote the training and hiring of more librarians of color in Kalamazoo and other communities. The scholarship is managed by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and the deadline to apply is March 1, 2021. The first scholarship will be awarded for a student expected to attend a graduate-level library science program in fall 2021.



"Libraries need a more diverse workforce to better represent the communities they serve, and KPL is eager to encourage a love for librarianship and improve pathways for students of color," said KPL Director Ryan Wieber. "Our goal is to inspire future KPL librarians, but the hope is to attract more people of color to library work overall—wherever they may end up professionally." ▲

For more information about eligibility and how to apply, visit kpl.gov/amandagreen.

The deadline to apply is March 1, 2021.

Roots of the Kalamazoo Public Library

By Keith Howard, Kalamazoo Public Library staff

FROM A HANDFUL OF BOOKS in a small office above S.E. Walbridge's East Main Street flour store, Kalamazoo's school library grew steadily over the years thanks to strong community support. When Corporation Hall opened on South Burdick Street in 1867, the library was moved onto a second-floor room above the stables.

The 2,800-volume school library became a public library in October 1872 when its collection was made available for the first time to the general public. Following another move in January 1885 into second-floor rooms above Alfred Wortley's West Main Street jewelry store, Kalamazoo's by then 12,000-volume public library was in desperate need of better quarters.

In July 1890, Dr. Edwin and Mrs. Cynthia Westover Van Deusen offered a gift to the community of \$50,000 toward a new public library building. Their only stipulations were that it include a room and small office for the Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine, and that the exterior of the building "be in harmony with and expressive of its purposes." The lot on the southeast corner of Rose and South streets was chosen and work was soon underway.

Chicago architects Normand Smith Patton and Reynolds Fisher were hired to design the structure. Granite was brought in from Vermont, along with buff colored sandstone from Amherst, Ohio. The Grand Rapids School Furniture Company supplied oak furniture and bookcases, while Edward J.N. Stent of New York was contracted to produce some eighty-one elegantly designed stained glass windows. Much of the work itself, from clearing the existing lot to installing the intricate stonework, utilities, and woodwork, would be carried out by Kalamazoo labor.

The new library building took nearly two years to complete and was opened to the public for the first time on Saturday, May 13, 1893. The building stood steadfast as a community landmark for six decades. ▲

More at kpl.gov/local-history




Kalamazoo Public Library, interior, 1893.

Virtual Events and More for CHILDREN, FAMILY, & ALL AGES

Grades K–5

Bookworms

Saturdays, March 13, April 10, & May 8 | 3–4 pm | Zoom 

Join us online for this book club aimed at readers in 3rd through 5th grade. Read the book, and join us on the date listed for discussion. Books are available a month prior to the discussion date. This event will be hosted on Zoom, and a link will be sent via email prior to the discussion date/time AND your own copy of the book – Books are available via curbside pickup following registration. Delivery of books via Media Mail is available, but be aware they may not arrive in a timely manner. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**

March 13: *Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson.

April 10: *Letters from Cuba* by Ruth Behar

May 8: *The Girl and the Ghost* by Hanna Alkaf



Sankofa Club


Wednesdays, March 17, April 14, & May 12
4:30–5:30 pm | Zoom 

A virtually engaging club for kids in 2nd to 4th grade. We will read together, do science experiments, make creative artworks, and challenge our math & coding skills. All materials will be provided. Call the Alma Powell Branch at (269) 553-7813 for more information.

Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.

Family & All Ages

Books and Bellies

Tuesdays, March 16, April 20, & May 18
10:30–11:30 am | Zoom 

It's never too early to begin reading to your baby! Kalamazoo Public Library has partnered with **Healthy Babies, Healthy Start** to provide a reading circle for expecting parents. Participants will be mailed free books to read aloud to their unborn baby as well as books about child rearing. This is a great way to meet other expectant parents and be connected to local parenting resources in our community. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**

Fleece, Love and Kindness

Starting Monday, March 1 | PICK-UP

This spring we would like to focus on kindness, and giving back to the community. Open to craft lovers of all ages, we are giving out craft kits for two different charities. You can make a blanket for a child in need with *Project Linus*, or make dog and cat toys for local animal shelters. Bring the finished project back to the library to be sent to charity, or pass it on to someone in need of kindness.

Virtual Events for TEENS

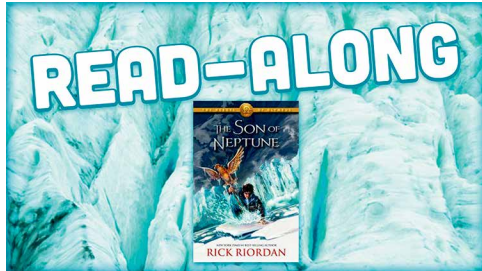
KPL@Home-Teens!

Starting Monday, March 1
Pick-up curbside locations

Come to Central, Oshtemo, and Eastwood during curbside hours to pick-up your free activity kits, while supplies last. Different activities each month.

Simply call or text the curbside number when you arrive and ask for a FREE ACTIVITY KIT!

Also, you are welcome to visit the dedicated program channels on our new Teen Discord, where we can post pictures of our progress, chat about our projects, and make suggestions. You will need to sign-up first in order to join the Discord.



Read Along: Heroes of Olympus – The Son of Neptune

March, April, & May | KPL TV

A fan favorite! Read Along with Miss Natalie! Read-Along is an online, daily program for kids and caregivers where a KPL Librarian reads popular chapter books out loud for kids to follow along. This spring we will be reading the *Heroes of Olympus* series by Rick Riordan.



Paint Some Happy Trees

Tuesdays, March 2, & April 6
3:30–4 pm | Discord/KPL TV/PICK-UP R

Let's get creative and paint some trees, in true Bob Ross fashion. Each month will feature a different theme but will always include trees in some way. No previous painting experience required; the goal is to have some fun and make some art, as Bob Ross always said, "We don't make mistakes, just happy little accidents." You will need to sign-up first in order to join the Discord. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive your kit.**



So You Wanna Play Dungeons & Dragons...

Mondays, March 8, April 12, & May 10
6–8 pm | Zoom R

Play Dungeons & Dragons with KPL Staff! We'll have a one-shot campaign for all skill levels, led by Dungeon Master Kevin King. Select from a list of predesigned characters. No dice or other supplies necessary, just bring your imagination and a sense of adventure. Grades 9th through 12th. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**



Bullet Journaling

Friday, March 26 | 1–6 pm | PICK-UP R

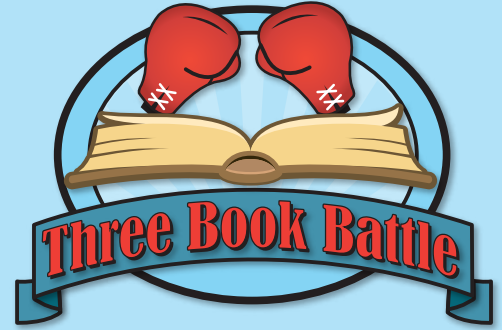
Explore your creative side with our take-home bullet journaling kits, to keep! Comes with your own journal, and pouch filled with neat goodies like pens, stickers, and washi tape. Come to CEN or OSH during curbside hours to pick-up your kits. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive your kit.**



Wreck This Journal

Thursday, April 15 | All day | Discord/PICK-UP R

This book is made to be destroyed! Each page of *Wreck This Journal* has a prompt or activity designed to help you truly and completely wreck the book, and have fun doing it! Each registered participant will receive one *Wreck This Journal*, and a few supplies to help you in your pursuit of wreckage! **You will need to sign-up first in order to join the Discord. Please register at kpl.gov to receive your kit.**



Three Book Battle

Wednesday, April 21 | 6:30–8 pm
Zoom + PICK-UP R

Three Book Battle returns with a different kind of battle for a different kind of year! Teens and tweens are invited to register online to receive a TBB kit containing all three books, activities, and a surprise! Registrants are encouraged to read all three books on their own and choose their favorite, then attend the online live session with youth librarians on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 to discuss their favorite books, answer trivia questions, and celebrate Three Book Battle in a new way this year! No teams necessary; this is an individually motivated program. Grades 6th through 12th. **Registration opens on February 22nd until full. Book pick-up starts March 1st.**

High School Titles (Grades 9–12):



1. *Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas
2. *Felix Ever After* by Kacen Callender
3. *Witchy* by Ariel Slamet Ries

Middle School Titles (Grades 6–8):



1. *Rick* by Alex Gino
2. *A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramee
3. *New Kid* by Jerry Craft

Registration opens Monday, February 22nd.

TBB Kit pickup begins at curbside locations Central, Eastwood, and Oshtemo branches on Monday, March 1st.



Virtual Events for ADULTS



Page Turners

Mondays, March 1, April 5, May 3

6:30–7:30 pm | Zoom

Engage in a thought-provoking conversation about books, exchange perspectives, and get to know your neighbors-virtually! Due to the COVID-19 shutdown, we'll be holding the meetings online. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**

March: *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson

April: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

May: *Eat a Peach* by David Chang

Reading Race Book Group

Tuesdays, March 9, May 11

6:30–8 pm | Zoom

This book club, co-sponsored by the Society for History and Racial Equity (SHARE) and KPL's Antiracism Transformation Team, focuses on race and racism in American society. These discussions will be held online using Zoom due to COVID-19; **please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**

March: *The Black Kids* by Christina Hammonds Reed

May: *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning* by Cathy Park Hong



Jacqueline Woodson— Behind the Books

Wednesday, March 10 | 3–4 pm | Zoom

See Page 2 for more details. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**

Jacqueline Woodson— The Power of Story

Wednesday, March 10 | 7–8 pm | Zoom

See Page 2 for more details. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**



OHOW: What Style Is It? (Italianate)

Saturday, March 13 | 6–7 pm | KPL TV

OHOW (Old House Owners Workshop) is a program of the City of Kalamazoo's Historic Preservation Commission. OHOW seeks to create educational programs that help old house owners understand their buildings—how and when they were built, and how to keep them in good repair. Whether owners plan to do work themselves or be educated in talking with craftspeople and contractors about needed repairs, OHOW can help!

What Style Is It? Italianate: Italianates come in many shapes and sizes, some of which are represented in Kalamazoo. Windows and eaves play a strong role in identifying this style, and historian Lynn Houghton will show us one great example. This program is made possible in part by and produced by **Public Media Network.**



Let's Talk About Books

Tuesdays, March 16, 23, & 30

5:30–6:30 pm | Zoom

Sonya and Sean Hollins of Season Press will highlight the *Top 5 Mistakes of Self Published Authors* in this 3-part series. Through more than a decade of helping dozens of authors publish, some of their authors will share what they have learned. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**

March 16: I Have the Perfect Idea for a Children's Book

Season Press and its authors will share how to hook young readers.

March 23: I'm Ready to Publish, Now!

Season Press and its authors will share how to move from concept to published author.

March 30: My Book is Complete ... Now What?

Learn what strategies to use to complement your book and attract an audience.



Classics Revisted

Thursdays, March 18, April 15, & May 20

7–8:45 pm | Zoom

Join local book-lovers for a lively discussion about favorite classic literature.

March: *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

April: *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh

May: *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

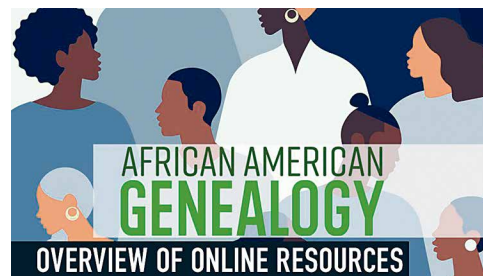
This event will be hosted on Zoom. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**



Cooking in Heels with Chef K

Tuesday, March 23 | 7–9 pm | Zoom

Join locally renowned entrepreneur Chef K as she cooks live from her studio kitchen some of her signature vegan dishes to include Buffalo Vegan Chik'N Dip with Nacho Bean Chips and Fried Eggplant with Vegan Cream Cheese! **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**



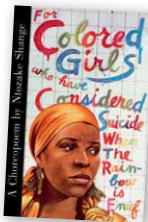
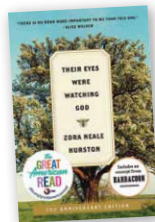
African American Genealogy: Overview of Online Resources

Monday, March 22 | 4:30–5:30 pm | Zoom

Are you ready to move forward with your family history research? There are so many resources available online, and many of them are FREE! This program provides an overview of online resources you can use to conduct your research. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**



Virtual Events for ADULTS



For Colored Girls Book Club

Fridays, March 26, April 30, & May 28

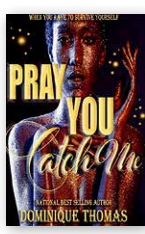
7–8 pm | Zoom [®]

A book club celebrating the beauty, strength, and power of Black, Indigenous, and phenomenal women of color around the world through literature. All readers welcome. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**

March: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

April: *First Comes Marriage* by Huda Al-Marashi

May: *For Colored Girls* by Ntozake Shange



Urban Fiction Book Club

Tuesday, March 30, April 27 & May 25

6–7 pm | Zoom [®]

If you love to read Urban Fiction, join us online for a fun-filled and open-minded discussion of some of the hottest titles around. All urban readers are welcome! **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**

March: *What Kind of Man Would I Be* by Blake Karrington

April: *Pray You Catch Me* by Dominique Thomas

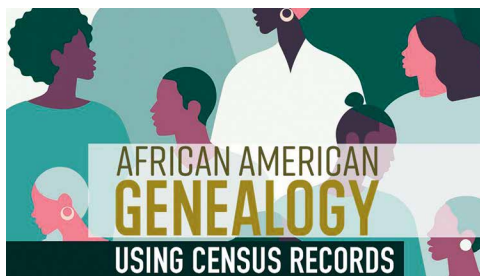
May: *Sincerely, Me: Standalone* by Charae Lewis

Author Visit with Alexis & Justin Black

Tuesday, April 6

6–7:30 pm | Zoom [®]

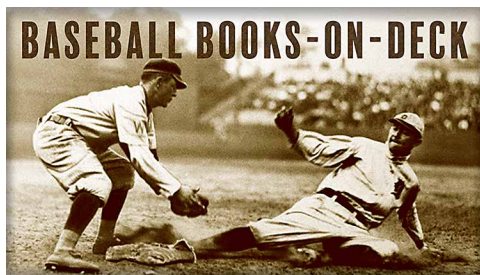
Learn how Alexis and Justin Black, authors of *Redefining Normal: How Two Foster Kids Beat the Odds and Discovered Healing, Happiness and Love*, merged their separate paths into one full of hope and purpose. Hear how they learned to reject the abusive patterns of their past, thereby intentionally breaking the cycle of generational violence and unhealthy behaviors. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**



African American Genealogy: Using Census Records

Monday, April 19 | 4:30–5:30 pm | Zoom [®]

Census records provide a wealth of information for genealogy research. This program will show you how to use federal & state census records, schedules, and rolls to locate your African American ancestors. This event will be hosted on Zoom. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**



Baseball Books-on-Deck

Thursdays, April 8, 15, 22, & 29

6:30–8 pm | Zoom [®]

Celebrate the beginning of the baseball season by attending four special author/historian presentations about America's Pastime. Hear about a little-known Tigers shortstop from Kalamazoo, spring training in pre-Castro Cuba featuring rookie Jackie Robinson, the lives of the great women of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League after playing baseball, and Kalamazoo baseball from 1880–1920. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link. Register for all four; it is like hitting a home run!**

April 8: *The Shortstop from Kalamazoo: The Life and Times of Neil Berry* by William Christiansen

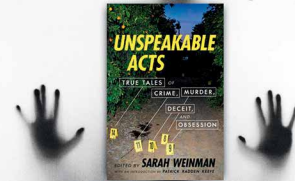
April 15: *Havana Hardball: Spring Training, Jackie Robinson, and The Cuban League* by César Brioso

April 22: *The All-American Girls After the AAGPBL* by Dr. Kat D. Williams

April 29: *Baseball in Kalamazoo 1880–1920—A Contrast in Colors* by Keith Howard



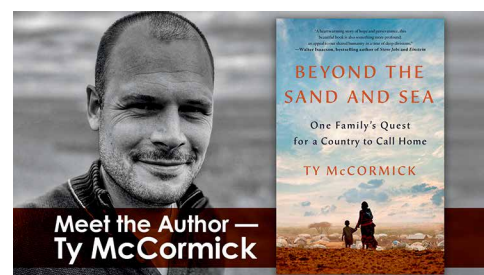
IT'S CRIME WE TALK: A TRUE CRIME BOOK CLUB



It's Crime We Talk: A True Crime Book Club

Tuesday, April 13 | 6:30–7:30 pm | Zoom [®]

Have you watched every episode of *Forensic Files*, or listened to every episode of *Serial* or *My Favorite Murder*? Then join your fellow true crime enthusiasts and murderinos for this true crime book club where we'll talk about our favorite books, television series, and podcasts of the genre. Join us virtually for a discussion of *Unspeakable Acts: True Tales of Crime, Murder, Deceit, and Obsession* edited by Sarah Weinman. This discussion will be held online using Zoom due to COVID-19; **please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**



Meet the Author — Ty McCormick

Thursday, May 20 | 6:30–8 pm | Zoom [®]

In *Beyond the Sand and Sea*, journalist Ty McCormick, tells the true story of Asad Hussein and his family's quest to leave the world's largest refugee camp in Dadaab, Kenya. Longing to join his sister in America, Asad keeps hope in his heart by escaping into books donated by American charities. This heart-wrenching story of a family faced with the long odds of coming to America instead of becoming one of the millions in permanent exile will shine a light on the world's broken immigrant system. Hear Ty McCormick, winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, discuss how this important story of humanity was researched and written. **Please register at kpl.gov to receive Zoom link.**

Note from the Director



Ryan Wieber
KPL Director

As I write this column, the library is currently offering curbside-only service at Central, Eastwood, and Oshtemo locations. That may change soon as we continue to see dramatic improvements in local COVID conditions including the positive case rate and the hospital inpatient bed census – numbers that continue to indicate a decline from the severe rise in COVID infections from late fall. Library service will return to open-building status once the numbers stay at a level similar to last summer. Visit kpl.gov or call (269) 553-7800 for the most current open hours.

KPL continues to seek ways to make library services more accessible during the pandemic. For those new or returning to the library, registering online for a card takes only a minute and provides instant access to ebooks, e-audios, emagazines, streaming video content, and superb learning platforms such as LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda) and Creative Bug. Patrons who reserve items from the online catalog – or by calling (269) 553-7800 – are notified via email, text or phone when those items are ready for pickup at curbside.

Kalamazoo Public Schools' students, by way of their student ID, automatically have a library account, and can access books, videos, and online content including Michigan eLibrary (MeL) databases and learning resources. Did you know KPL loans out hotspots and chromebooks? Reserve online or by calling, and then have access to easy-to-use technology for school, work, job seeking, or entertainment. These devices are available for all ages and checked out for three weeks.

This year's *Reading Together* event, "Celebrating Story," is fully online, and well worth your virtual attendance as we welcome 2021 Coretta Scott King Author Award-winner Jacqueline Woodson for two programs on **Wednesday, March 10**. Register online today to reserve your spots, and be sure to see the full lineup of *Reading Together* activities scheduled during the season, including book discussions and an opportunity to record and upload your story and your reading of Jacqueline's writings to form a community mosaic. ▲

Have you utilized our KPL Curbside service?

Please share your experience
with us and take our brief survey.

Link: <http://bit.ly/3rLzLPI>



Shop the Friends Bookstore Online!

Browse our fantastic collection of books, DVDs, and CDs in pristine condition.



You can make selections, pay online, and pick up your purchases at the Kalamazoo Public Library Central parking lot. Hundreds of titles to choose from! **Pick-up is available Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am–12 pm.**

<https://shop.friendsofkpl.org/>

Donations are not currently being accepted. If you have questions, please call (269) 553-7950.



ONEplace@kpl is offering a series of webinars, virtual peer learning groups and online videos including sessions on grant writing, equity, sustainability, and more! Please visit: kpl.gov/venue/oneplacekpl-webinar/ for a list of upcoming virtual programs hosted by ONEplace@kpl staff. ▲

2020–21 LIBRARY BOARD

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Christine Kindy	Vice President	Tami Russell	Trustee
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